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WESTERN EUROPE — CANADA — INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

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Favorable Reaction to US Stand on
Development

Preliminary reaction has been favorable to the US speech on development policy delivered September 1 at the 7th special session of the UN General Assembly.

Three EC commissioners, for example, welcomed the speech and praised its positive tone. They told US Ambassador Greenwald that they believe its substantive positions are completely consistent with the EC's views on furthering relations between the developed and developing countries. Uruguayan Foreign Minister Blanco was also enthusiastic.

Most developing states have not commented extensively on the speech, however, and appear to be waiting for more details.

A key issue for most developing states will be the speed with which they believe the US and other developed countries are willing to implement the proposals in the speech. The Jamaican delegate, for example, welcomed the US offer of \$200 million for an agricultural development fund and called on other states to announce pledges.

Members of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries have condemned the speech's criticism of the oil producers' pricing policies. Jamshid Amuzegar, Iranian minister of the interior, ridiculed attempts by industrialized countries to single out the actions of the oil exporting states as the major cause of the world economic crisis.

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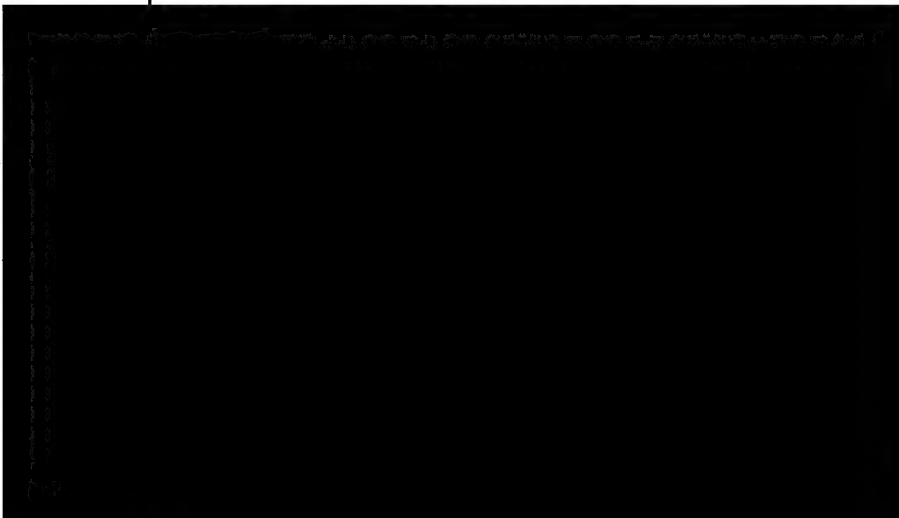
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1 + 4 | Prospects have improved somewhat for avoiding a fight at the special session over the final document. The ad hoc committee of the whole charged with drafting the document is balanced in favor of a middle-of-the-road approach. The Dutch chairman will be assisted by a Czechoslovak, a Thai, and a Ugandan, while the rapporteur will be Peruvian.

1 + 4 | Algeria, the traditional radical leader, is not part of the committee leadership. Nonetheless, Algerian Foreign Minister Bouteflika remains the session's president, and the Algerians will certainly continue to wield considerable influence behind the scenes.

1 + 4 | The committee faces the difficult task of reconciling the US proposals--and perhaps several others--with the position paper of the Group of 77, the caucus of developing states in the UN. If the ad hoc committee cannot reach agreement on a compromise, and if the Algerians and their allies seize the reins, the developing states may yet use their majority to force the assembly to accept the position paper of the Group of 77. (Confidential)

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